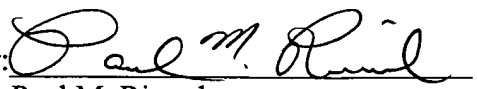
Remarks

Claims 1-29, 31-36, and new claims 37-46 are pending. By the foregoing amendment, the specification has been amended to claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to co-pending application Serial No. 09/535,953, for which a Notice of Allowance was mailed on February 1, 2002. Claim 30 has been canceled in light of the claims allowed in the '953 application, and claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 34 has been amended to include reference to single-layered articles in addition to multi-layered articles as already recited. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, *inter alia*, at page 19, lines 3-31. New claim 37 is directed to a continuous thermoforming process for preparing a multi-layered article in which a first layer comprises at least one virgin alkylene terephthalate or naphthalate polyester and at least one reprocessed alkylene terephthalate or naphthalate polyester. Support for new claim 37 is found in the specification, *e.g.*, at page 8, lines 3-13; page 27, lines 12-28; and original claim 14. Claims 38-43 depend on claim 37 and otherwise correspond to original claims 15-20. New claim 44 recites that the first thermoplastic layer further comprises a core-shell toughener. Support for new claim 44 is found in the specification, *e.g.*, at page 13, lines 3-6. New claim 45 recites that the first thermoplastic layer further comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polycarbonate, polyethylene, and polypropylene, and mixtures thereof. Support for new claim 45 is found in the specification, *e.g.*, at page 11, lines 23-26. New claim 46 recites a step of laminating a thermoplastic layer onto one or more surfaces of the thermoformed article. Support for new claim 46 is found in the specification, *e.g.*, at page 19, lines 19-20 and page 28, lines 2-5. No new matter is added. Early examination of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 7, 2002

By: 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

31. (amended) ~~The~~ A continuous thermoforming apparatus ~~of claim 30~~ for preparing a multi-layered article, the apparatus comprising:

means for co-extruding at least two distinct thermoplastic layers through an extrusion die to form a co-extrudate in a substantially non-oriented state; and

a rotating wheel having at least one thermoforming member, said at least one thermoforming member comprising:

a mold surface for receiving at least a portion of the co-extrudate;

a stripper plate positioned adjacent to the mold surface;

means for controlling the temperature of said mold surface to maintain the co-extrudate in a thermoformable state, wherein at least a portion of said mold surface is maintained at a first temperature; and

means for controlling the temperature of said stripper plate to maintain the stripper plate at a second temperature, wherein said second temperature is not equal to said first temperature;

wherein the difference between said first temperature and said second temperature is from about 1°C to about 100°C.

34. (amended) A continuous thermoforming apparatus for preparing a single-layered or multi-layered thermoformed article, the apparatus comprising:

in the case of a multi-layered article, means for co-extruding at least two distinct thermoplastic layers through an extrusion die to form a co-extrudate in a substantially non-oriented state; and

a rotating wheel having an axis and at least one thermoforming member, said at least one thermoforming member comprising:

a dynamic upper mold cavity for receiving at least a portion of the co-extrudate or a thermoplastic sheet in a substantially non-oriented state;

a static lower stripper plate adjacent to said mold cavity;

means for controlling the temperature of said mold cavity to maintain the co-extrudate or thermoplastic sheet in a thermoformable state at a predetermined temperature or in a predetermined temperature gradient; and

means for selectively displacing said dynamic upper mold cavity toward the axis of said rotating wheel to separate the thermoformed article from said mold cavity.